

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine disease				
Obesity	Free fatty acid receptor 3 (FFAR3; GPR41)	A study in mice suggests that GPR41 could be targeted to treat obesity. GPR41 is one of several receptors for short-chain fatty acids, and it is expressed in the gut epithelium. GPR41 knockout mice showed less adiposity and weight gain after forced feeding than did wild-type controls. Feces of GPR41 knockouts had higher levels of short-chain fatty acids than that of wild-type controls. Next steps include developing GPR41 inhibitors and testing them in mouse models of obesity. GlaxoSmithKline plc has terminated its preclinical program to develop free fatty acid receptor inhibitors to treat metabolic diseases.	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	Samuel, B.S. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online Oct. 17, 2008; doi:10.1073/pnas.0808567105 Contact: Jeffrey I. Gordon, Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, Mo. e-mail: jgordon@wustl.edu Contact: Masashi Yanagisawa, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, Texas e-mail: masashi.yanagisawa@utsouthwestern.edu
		SciBX 1(40); doi:10.1038/scibx.2008.971 Published online Nov. 6, 2008		